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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
5 November 1956

TO: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Asian Reaction to Events in Hungary

1. Asian official and public opinion, some of which had previously been inclined to view events in Hungary as an internal Soviet-bloc matter, is taking an increasingly condemnatory view of Soviet actions.

2. India, which abstained on the UN Hungarian resolution of 4 November, reportedly delivered to Moscow "during the weekend" a note expressing India's "concern and distress" over events in Hungary. Nehru also told the opening meeting of the UNESCO conference in New Delhi on 5 November that "What we are seeing today in Egypt and Hungary are both freedom and dignity outraged, and forces of modern arms used to suppress peoples." This statement, India's first official comment on the Hungarian situation, may have been stimulated by appeals addressed to Nehru to intervene on Hungary's behalf.

3. The Philippines, Thailand, Laos and Cambodia supported the UN's 4 November resolution. The Thai director of public relations branded the use of Soviet troops in Hungary as intervention and Prince Sihanouk has proposed an extraordinary commission of inquiry to examine the Egyptian and Hungarian conflicts.

4. Though Burma and Indonesia abstained on the resolution, Burmese Prime Minister Ba Swe has accused the USSR of helping to "scuttle the United Nations" and Indonesian political leaders have charged the USSR with aggression. The Indonesian government has not yet adopted an official stand, however. Afghanistan, whose prime minister has just returned from a visit to the USSR, is also reportedly in sympathy with the Hungarians.

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5. A leading Japanese newspaper says the Soviet attack shows the USSR is unwilling to permit the existence of a government displeasing to it. Japan will probably not take a strong stand against the USSR, however.

6. The semi-official radio in South Korea has issued the only call to date for the dispatch of a UN police force to Hungary.

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Assistant Director,
Current Intelligence

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